

DRAGON USER

International edition

The independent Dragon magazine

75p US\$3.25 October 1984

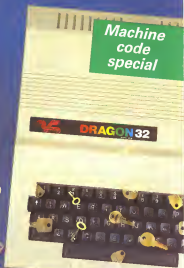
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to unlock
your Dragon*

*Touchmaster —
the inside
story*

**Machine
code
special**

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ZAKSSON

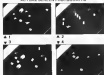
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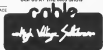
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How to submit articles

The quality of the material we can publish in
Dragon User remains vital to a very great
extent, depends on the quality of the
contributions that you can make with your
Dragon. The Dragon 32 computer was launched
on to the market with a powerful version of
Basic, but with very poor documentation.

Every one of us who uses a Dragon will be
able to produce new books and disks almost
every day. To help other Dragon users keep
up with the speed of the development staff
of us must assume that we make the
discovery first - that means writing it down
and passing it on to others.

Articles which are submitted to Dragon
User for publication should not be more than
2000 words long. All submissions should be
typed. Please leave wide margins and a
double space between each line. Programs
should wherever possible be computer
printed on plain white paper and be shown
clearly by a laser or dot plotter.

We cannot guarantee to return every
submitted article or program, but please keep
a copy. If you wish to have your program
returned you must include a stamped
addressed envelope.

Contents



Letters

Including this month information on free
enrollment to the Culbert Club run by
Microdon and bad news for members want-
ing to make music by linking their Dragons
to a synthesiser

News

Continuation of Dragon Data's tale brings
the news that it is joined in to continue with
the manufacture of the 32-84 Dragon
Professional and an MSX machine

Touchmaster profile

Jason Poley, inventor of Port Teletel to
meet an Dragon Data managing director
Brian Mays, now looking after the in-
terests of new firm, Touchmaster

Run with ROM

John Schenck reviews Bug Zepper from
Winfrith Microsystems — an aid to in-
stant program running

An educated review

Mike Harrop takes a look at what's
available in educational software for the
Dragon

Cave bird

Steve Gahnerode a program of the month
will set your wings flapping

Machine code special

A special machine code pullout section
begins with a short introduction to the
terminology and a review of two machine
code sets by Keith and Steven Breen

5 Sounding off

An editorial from Keith and Steven Breen's
Advanced Sound and Graphics for the
Dragon 32 helps you to program in
machine code

Space shot

Michael Turner uses the Dragon Editor/
Assembler to convert his Basic program
listing into machine code

Functional features

Peter Whitaker a collection of utility prog-
rams enables the creation of random func-
tions by use of the Dragon's HIR sub-
routines called whenever a ROM routine is
used (Cover photo by Katherine Tucker)

Incentive offer

Save £1.50 on incentive tested game for
the Dragon and enter the win-a-disk drive
competition

Open file

A keeping routine is ongoing under and a
three-dimensional ROM file amongst the
monthly selection of projects, programs

Adventure Trail

Help is at hand for adventurers stuck in
stuffy situations. Mike Gahnerode reviews
The Incredible Hulk and the first of the
Channel 4 Mysterious Adventure series.
The Golden Dragon

Dragon Answers

Sliding round the page Brian Gudge
brakes to a halt with a dragon answer

Competition Corner

1000 of Salamander Software is the prize
in Duncan Lee's grid buzzer

Editorial

SOFTWARE IS THE key to success for any home micro. The nature, quality, price and
availability of software is crucial to prospective purchasers, as companies such as
CompuLink, Jupiter Databank, Texas Instruments and Mattel have found in their coil.

Dragon's recent problems stem, at least in part, from a failure to attract the sort of
software writers for the Commodore 64 and the Sinclair Spectrum. Dragon's software was
never available in quantity, but there were few games which captured the
imagination or quite the same as the Atari 400 for the Spectrum.

To be fair, some companies which specialised in Dragon software, notably
Salamander and Watersoft, produced some excellent programs. But they did it with little
help from Dragon Data and they did not produce any discs either. Nobody would buy a
Dragon simply in order to play a particular game, as some people might be tempted to
purchase a Spectrum or Commodore 64.

Salamander, while it has a rather ambivalent attitude towards third party software houses,
welcomed the production of high quality programs through its links with Peak, Mathematics
House and others. Similarly, Commodore has brought out a wide range of interesting and
innovative software, though it remains a hardware driven company.

However, with Eurohard moving Dragon's manufacturing base to Spain, it looks as
though the supply of Dragon software is starting to dry up. Companies which specialise in
Dragon software are fast converting their games to run on other machines. While
some new games may appear over the next couple of months, the outlook after
Christmas is distinctly bleak.

If Eurohard, Touchmaster or G&C want Dragon to remain in the UK market,
they will have to start producing some software soon. More importantly, they will have to
convince the software houses that it is still worth their while developing new programs.
As yet, they have not attempted to do so.

RETURN OF THE RING

THE KING
OF
THE
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OF
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KINGDOM
OF
THE
KINGDOM

Our last two papers

The Guardians of Shadr is defeated, the still-
sprawled leader of the Es-
Sage lies at bay. How
Singapore, wisdom of the
Four Bright Wings, must
face the greatest
challenge: to return the
Ring Of Darkness to its
creators on the hidden
planet Singapore...
And somewhere at the
edge of time the forces of
evil are preparing their
return.

After one year of development, Windows 3.0 is proud to present the most sophisticated games ever created for the Dragon 32. Written 100% in machine code, RETURN OF THE KING is an astounding multi program blend of superb high resolution colour graphics and advanced routines that allow you to communicate with your computer in complete silence. You will face challenges and excitement as you and your fingerwield companions travel a mysterious planet and brave the dangers of a sinister three-dimensional forest moon. An epic adventure controlled by the wealth of detail and direction.

Address: _____

Please note: RETURN OF THE MIND is a complete adventure. You need not buy THE MIND OF DOOM to play it.

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ISBN: 978-0-04-304132-1
History of the King
The King of Chosun
(Korean text)

RESEARCH DESIGN
This study was a descriptive study.

2000-2001
 Vice Mayor and Chairman,
 Gloucester Council

[illegible]

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



Letters

This is the chance to get your views — and your tips, comments and comments to Letters Please. Dragon Users: 12-15 Little Newwood Street, London WC2N 2LD

Music, give me . . .

COULD you tell me if there are any letters telling an A to D converter for the Dragon 32 so I am interested in adding a musical keyboard to my computer?

M Webb
Mansbridge
East Sussex

. . . music

I HAVE a small synthesizer that can be controlled by an external control voltage.

Is it possible to connect this with the Dragon 32 so that the computer will play the synthesizer? If so, how would I go about connecting the two together and would I have to write software specially for this project?

J A Gil
Dorchester
Dorset

WE DON'T know of any suitable interfaces which would produce the 1 volt per octave signal required to control most synthesizers. Even if you could find one you would have to write your own software.

Unfortunately the Dragon 32 may be some time passed over to the bit of a synthesizer control to the driver of digital to analog American computers (the names mentioned) which are have several interfaces available using the new MIDI music control protocols, or digital to analogue systems.

Routine expression

I THINK the following online subscription may be of interest to Dragon Users: since it allows you to INPUT a simple expression and get numbers.

Take the case where you are requiring a list of numbers (space for instance) and you come to 17 multiples of 137 561 each. One either have to get your calculator out or use INPUT 17 which means typing an endless one comes this and one comes that, the of the single items.

This calculator inputs either a single value or two values with a multiplier. The multipliers can be + or X as you like and the numbers can be any valid Basic

types. An example: 2028-8 25 (using X above a shift) in the listing 3 = 5000

```
1000 SUBROUTINE INPUT
      WITH 2 OPTION
1010 INPUT "CAN USE X)"
      25
1020 Z=NOT(X) OR 3
1030 R=Z+THEN R=VAL (Z)
      RETURN
1040 Z=VAL (LOFTS (Z)
      2-1)
1050 Z=VAL (RIGHTS (Z)
      (Z)-2)
1060 R=Z+XOR
1070 RETURN
```

Example of use
10 INPUT "ENTER A NUMBER"
20 GOTO 1000
30 SUM=SUM+R
40 INPUT "H SUM"
50 GOTO 10

One word of warning: if VAL finds a non numeric character it gives up and returns the value to be without an error message.

J A Lawrence
Buck

Cuthbert club

TWO of the main Dragon User Groups (Games and Computers of Wokingham) who want to have stronger links than Dragon Users (who are the largest finding) are now united to provide the service previously available.

In the past many people have sent cash to user groups only to get little or nothing in return. We are prepared to offer A FREE OF CHARGE membership to The Cuthbert Club which is Incorporated a own user group is anyone wishing to join. All they need do is write to us for their free badge quarterly magazine (has articles and so on) Our address is

The Cuthbert Club Incorporated 41
Trove Road St Asaph, Conwy
PL25 5JG

John Symes
Merchiston

Not cricket

WITH regard to the arrival of Tim Laver's Cricket in the August edition of Dragon User I'd like to point out that John Symes is incorrect in stating that the players are restricted to playing on dates between England and a World XI.

As the current thousands Dragon owners who have already taken the opportunity to write coverage on the Vernal Index will know, games can be held on British dates of the player's choice in fact one of the very attractive points of the game is that the user facility can be used to build a library of teams which can be matched against each other.

I think John may have been confused by the fact that if the player does not wish to leave the time to some the teams may players and give their batting and bowling skill points the Dragon 32N be allocated to pick England and World XI.

Henry Whitehouse
Preston

String data

IN THE July issue of Dragon User Ben D. Aug wrote complaining that she had used D400(24) (double quoted) in a list but was unable to release the file in the query was interpreted in the view of a data field rather than a character in the field. Ben Cudge said that this is no simple

way around this, but there are in fact two fairly simple methods.

As Pam mentioned, there is no problem if single quotes are used but if double quotes are needed then the file should be read using LINE INPUT=1 instead of the more normal INPUT=1. Just as you would write a reading position from the keyboard. All the same rules apply for LINE INPUT=1 as they do for LINE INPUT being used as in normal.

Matthew Hildrew
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire

On the box

I LIKE many other Dragon users, this is doubt, asked again for the transmission of Dragon software on the ITV computer programme Database Entertainment. I failed to record the programme and therefore missed the transmission.

If anybody did record the transmission I'd be grateful if they contacted me at 0152 26758.

Colin Towns
Plymouth

ITT connector

SOME months ago I purchased an ITT Colson Terminator (model PL2510SM) which was extremely fine unit giving an excellent performance. I could of course have purchased a unit without the terminator facility of giving a warning at price, but I opted for the monitor for the better resolution that it undoubtedly gives.

I have tried to write since the purchase to obtain the necessary connector to give me sound and vision from the computer. I can get the latter but no sound. Consequently I have been forced to use the TV channel, but whilst it is still a good player I am not getting the best use from my educational outfit.

I have telephoned both Dragon Data who referred me to the monitor manufacturers and ITT who referred me to the computer manufacturers.

Can you in any further order, help me in my plight?

Gerald Woodward
Widnes
Warrington

Software Top 10

- | | | | |
|----|-----|------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1-1 | Peddie | Beas Jolly |
| 2 | 1-1 | Huntchback | CCP-20 |
| 3 | 1-1 | Hungry Horse | Mr South's House |
| 4 | 1-1 | Buzzard Raid | Microdeal |
| 5 | 1-1 | Cuthbert in Space | Microdeal |
| 6 | 1-1 | Cuthbert Raid | Microdeal |
| 7 | 1-1 | Mr Dig | Microdeal |
| 8 | 1-1 | Up Partridge | Rayford |
| 9 | 1-1 | Ring of Darkness | Watersoft |
| 10 | 1-1 | Cuthbert in the Jungle | Microdeal |

Chart compiled by Watersoft Software

FACTS, FOLKS

During the last few years we have produced or licenced lots of software for the 6809 microprocessor. Most of the software has been advertised or reviewed at one time or another, but never all together — there was too much to say about each product. This month we are giving the "blurb" a rest and just printing a list of most of the software available from Compusense. If you want further details, write to us direct.

DRAGON/TANDY Software

	Cassette	Disk	Time
EDIT + includes H+H&B	24.00	24.00	min
H+H&B	26.00	n/a	min
Calculator	22.00	18.00	min
DRAW	18.00	n/a	min
DEMO	18.00	n/a	min
DISCOS	18.00	15.00	min
DYNAPLOT	26.00	25.00	min
DYNAMETER	n/a	5.00	3.00
DYNASOFT	n/a	5.00	5.00
GRAPHFORMER	n/a	n/a	18.00

6804 Source Programs — Program + Source code for DRAW

	Price
Vol 1 Disassembler	5.00
Vol 2 Game of life	5.00
Vol 3 Space Score Dump	5.00
Vol 4 Detachable Screen Dump	5.00
All four Volumes	18.00

Packages on above software — \$5p per order

TANDY COLOR versions are available — but enquire first please!

Books and Extras

6809 Assembly Language — Leventhal	13.00 + 1.00 p&h
Programming 684100 — Zaks	12.00 + 1.00 p&h
Introducing Dragon 6809 — Senica	1.00 + 0.50 p&h
Advanced Assembly Notes — Breen	0.00 + 0.50 p&h
Dragon 6809 — Jarvis/Cornell	6.00 + 0.50 p&h

*These books contain 6809/6805/6801 examples

Monitor (Screen) Test	4.00 and p&h
Dragon Color Converter	5.00 and p&h
Dragon printer test	1.00 and p&h
DYNASOFT Diskettes	Enquire for prices

DYNASOFT EDIT + are available from Super branches



FLEX/OS9 Disk Software

FLEX is available on a number of hardware systems including the DRAGON and TANDY COLOR COMPUTER. All the software shown here is fully compatible with these systems. More to follow soon!

File Operating System: Editor for DRAGON	58.00
File Advanced Programmer's Guide	15.00
TSC 68010/68020	14.00
TSC 68010/68020	57.00
TSC 68010	74.00
TSC 68010	260.00
Super South 68000 assembler 68010/68020 + source	97.00
68010 Assembler Macro-libs	15.00
68010 Simulator + source	95.00
68010 Translator + source	27.00
Super South 68000 programming macros	40.00
DYNASOFT FLEX	172.00
CONEX: Compiler	115.00
DYNASOFT 68000/68010/68020/6805	172.00
Intel C: compiler linker	404.00
Intel compiler for 68010 PC and 6805 (used) microprocessors	500.00
Loadable Macros	100.00
Use data file	15.00
Use data Compiler 68010/68020/6805	26.00
Source code 68010/68020/6805	172.00
68010/68020	27.00
DYNASOFT 68010/68020/6805 + source code	500.00
DYNASOFT C: compiler	68.00
Monitor 68010	50.00
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TSC 68010	74.00
TSC 68010/68020/6805 link loader	172.00
Super South 68000/68010/68020 + source	107.00
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68010 Translator + source	27.00
68010/68020/6805	97.00
DYNASOFT DYNASOFT FLEX — (soon enquire)	180.00
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Use data Compiler 68010/68020/6805	26.00
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☆☆☆ Some of the software above is also available for OS9 — enquire! ☆☆☆

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6809 is the registered name of Motorola Ltd

Eurohard plans October launch

SPAINISH firm Eurohard hopes to begin production of the Dragon this month at its plant in Gernika, Spain. The company, which has bought Dragon Data assets, took stock and kernel, according to ex-Dragon Data managing director Owen Moore, has the rights to the Dragon's glass technology and intellectual property (the right to new products).

The company is believed to have acquired the assets for £1 million. A team of Dragon Data employees are currently in Spain helping to set-up production facilities. Eurohard is a new company, privately owned, that has been set up to manufacture computers in a regional development area in Spain — a fact that may assist similar partners in Dragon Data.

The company will start production of the 32 and 64 and is currently 'finishing perfecting' the design of the Proteus console, according to Senior Lopez, the man in charge at Eurohard's plant in Spain. Eurohard also has the rights to Dragon Data's share in the GDC Dragon MSR machine



Production of the Dragon has moved to Spain

which it is also perfecting and will be manufacturing next year, although it is now thought that GDC has not yet signed a licensing arrangement with Microsoft.

The final deal that the receiver Robert Ellis of administration Touché Ross set up is a 'joint venture' arrangement that sees the production of the Dragon move to Spain, the marketing in the UK being taken on by GDC and the support of the Dragon being undertaken by Touchmaster — the UK company set up by ex-Dragon Data employees located at the Dragon plant in Port Talbot.

Eurohard is believed to be the first micro manufacturer in Spain, had prior to the receiver being called in, actually signed a licence with Dragon Data to manufacture the Dragon in Spain for the Spanish home market and Spanish speaking countries, including Central and South America. It now has the sole rights to manufacture the Dragon, which Touchmaster will be responsible for exporting initially to all territories other than Spain and Italy.

GDC has agreed a distribution agreement to manufacture future Eurohard Dragon products in the UK through

GDC Radio and Television at Sutton Park. GDC will also be responsible for selling off Dragon Data's stocks of the Dragon 32 and 64 in the country, though in preparation the company had still not come to a deal with the receiver over the price it would have to pay for the stocks and therefore couldn't comment on its plans to market the Dragon.

Touchmaster will be operating a telephone answering service and a Dragon mail order business in the Dragon Data plant in Port Talbot. The telephone number will remain the same — (0682) 745000, though the address to write to has now changed. All enquiries should be directed to Touchmaster at PO Box 47, Port Talbot SA93 3GG. The company will also be collecting software authors with a view to manufacturing products on behalf of Eurohard.

The manufacture and marketing of the Dragon in Spain will be supported by a television program to be run as Spanish television along the lines of the Computer program shown on BBC television in this country.

SEPARATE legal proceedings at the High Court were instituted both for and against Microdeal in London recently.

The American company Activision initiated proceedings against Microdeal on the grounds that Microdeal's *Cultbert In the Jungle* was a copy of Activision's game *Pitfall*. The company sought an injunction preventing Microdeal from selling *Cultbert In the Jungle*, and the proceedings were resolved when Microdeal gave an undertaking to the court that they would not make any further copies. Microdeal obtained a licence to market the game from Turn Of Mind Software in the UK but when it compared it to *Pitfall* with Activision's lawyers the Activision had acquired a licence for it, and so Microdeal withdrew its licence.

In other proceedings, Micro-

Court action

deal sought and gained an injunction against Or Microdeal, who it was alleged in conjunction with his 14 year old brother, ran a tape copying operation from four different addresses in the Sharnbrook area. The tape piracy racket involved thousands of pounds worth of Dragon software being sold through classified advertisements in computer magazines. Games such as *Softies*, *High and Microdeal's* *Progger* and *Outburst* series were being copied on a large scale and offered to Dragon owners at a fraction of the retail price.



MAKER STRENGTH one of the most popular arcade type games in which you have to negotiate a series of intricate caverns, collecting treasures and avoiding traps is on the way for the Dragon. The game *Spectre* (Spectrum version pictured above) is to be released by Software Projects for both the Dragon 32 and 64. The conversion contains most of the graphics and sounds obtainable on other versions, although it will be in black and white. Mike Allen was responsible for powering a whole new generation of vector styled games on the Spectrum. The game should be out by the end of September.

Dragon fair on the way

AT LONG last Dragon users will have a show of their own. The 1989 concert show will be held on Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 November at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster.

The show promises to be a major event for Dragon owners, with a number of familiar names promising to be there. A Microdeal spokeswoman said that the company will have "a major position at the show" adding that it was going to be the biggest thing for 5000 users large-sized breed.

CompuServe will be displaying Flex on the Dragon and according to Ted Opper oral the show should be a "major success". Statements promise to be there as do Customer and Peakey who will be holding a competition on their stand — there will be a prize to the top scoring Software in Peakey's choice game for the Dragon 32.

According to Mike Green (editor of Computer Marketplace) organizers of the event (Gawell) Computers, Channel 8 Software, Duckworth (for Computers, Microcom).

MSI Consultants, Trojan Products and Tandy have all booked places and many more companies have promised to be there.

The show will enable Dragon users armed with software and other products to see what is available for their machine. Brian Moore of Touch



Look-out for Dragon and other member said that GPC, Eureka or Touchmaster should be there. Sunstone Publications — publishers of this magazine will also have a stand. For further details contact Mike Greenfield Computer Marketplace, 20 Orange Street, London WC2H 7ED.

Electronic software



JOHN MENZIES is to be one of the first existing groups to introduce the Electronic Distribution of Software (EDDS) system into its shops. The system, developed by Progress Express, offers games, educational, home or business software to be transferred on demand to cassette, cartridge or disk at the time and point of sale. The machine (seen above) (pictured above) provides information on the "top 10" best selling software and can also present reviews on certain programs. All the popular titles are selected for including cassette for the Dragon.

Aids to learning

A NEW RANGE of educational software for the Dragon 32 and 64 is being launched by Abacus Software. Titles listed below at Abacus said that the company is pulling out of games software and concentrating on the business and educational fields.

Designed by teachers, the new range of programs are a revision series for GCSE, O level and CSE examinations. There are eleven titles covering Biology, Chemistry, Computer Studies, Geography, History, Maths and Physics. Each tape refers for C12 96 and consists of four programs.

There are also topics on each program plus a test which examines you on the previous year. Graphics are also included.

For further details contact Abacus at 21 Union Street, Ramsgate, Nr. Rye, East Sussex TN38 9JL on the subject of educational software. None of a different sort — a full scale withdrawal from the Dragon — comes from Colin Mann of Garland Computing, Garland, who planned to launch a range of software converted from its BBC programs (see Dragon User May) but decided to cut its losses and drop the Dragon altogether.

Bargain programs

DISCUSOFT is hoping to sell a range of software at a "giveaway price" for the Dragon 32. The first program is entitled Megamaze and costs just 52.50 pence in 100 per cent machine code. This puzzle-type game puts you in search of treasure. The screen scrolls either way as you swim in the centre of the maze looking for the hidden paths.

The program is accompanied by a utility (on the reverse side of the cassette) which is aimed at correcting the bug in the software routine of the Dragon's keyboard.

The utility (which is free with the game) enables the user to correct pressing of keys — allowing very fast typing on the keyboard. Further games from Discsoft will depend on the response to the launch of these two titles. John Large of Discsoft said the relatively inexpensive pricing policy is a result "of general cost cuts in the letters pages of computer magazines about software prices. Deals from Discsoft at 48 Windows Road, Doncaster DN2 5HT.

Costs are also selling expensive software — a range of sales for the Dragon and other models are being sold at half price.

Imagine that!

FOLLOWING the news that Imagine had failed in the official takeover after failing to pay magazine publishers £100,000 when a seven day

limit imposed by the High Court in London. Beta Jolly announced that it had acquired Imagine's existing stock.

The company which was formed at the end of last year to seek licenses to market products from a number of software companies had in fact been distributing software for Imagine. It has now gained the rights to sell Imagine's stock and is offering Dragon users a Dragon Value pack for £14.99. The pack contains of four games for the Dragon — Arcade, D & D, Conan, Dragoon and Legend — all at which usually retail for £5.50 each.

For further details contact Beta Jolly at 154, New Broad way, Faring, London W5.



Touchmaster takes off

Gordon Ross looks at the new set-up at Dragon Data

AN EMPTY warehouse a few fabled paces from old software centres and the Dragon logo on the receptionist's desk is all that remains of Dragon Data's presence at the Ramsgate Industrial Estate in Margate, Kent, today.

Dragon Data has now ceased to exist, or strictly speaking the company has been handed to the liquidator to pay off the creditors. In its place is a complicated intricate arrangement designed to support Dragon users and continue with the production of the machines (see page 8 this issue). Central to this arrangement is the role of Touchmaster — a company set-up by ex-Dragon Data chiefs Brian Moore and Richard Keasdale and occupying the old Dragon Data premises at Margate in Port Talbot.

Touchmaster is a new high technology company backed by Prudential, the investment arm of the Prudential Insurance group, and largely comprising ex-Dragon Data employees. Its role as far as the Dragon is concerned is an unusual one, acting somewhere between that of Eurolead and GEC. It will neither be manufacturing Dragons, nor marketing them — its stock having been shipped to Spain and to GEC's warehouses in Gelsen Park.

Sitting in a large conference room, Brian Moore, now managing director of Touchmaster UK, outlined the role of his new company and was quick to point out that Touchmaster is not solely concerned with the Dragon.

Touchmaster has two purposes, a residual one — to continue to support the Dragon — and a new role as a development company. Touchmaster is support is aimed to the role of Eurolead SA — the company which will be manufacturing Dragons in Spain — and to GEC, who will be marketing Dragons in this country.

Initially Touchmaster will "assist with the move to Spain and help set up the production facility there". In this connection a team of four Touchmaster employees are going to Spain to lend assistance to their Spanish counterparts. Brian envisages

spending some time there himself, but only on a temporary basis.

Once this initial stage has been completed Touchmaster will provide ongoing support to Eurolead and will assist where required in any new product design. It will also be responsible for exporting Dragons to all countries other than Spain and Italy.

In the UK, Touchmaster will assist the GEC marketing effort as required by GEC, and will sell Dragon software and provide support such as a telephone answering system, mail order business and so on. It has not been decided if Touchmaster will continue to service Dragons, though people who buy their Dragons from GEC will never then be serviced by GEC. Brian said he hopes to continue to service existing Dragons, though Touchmaster may experience logistical problems such as obtaining spare parts and supplies.

There is lots of talking for the Dragon at Touchmaster — a labour of love was now Brian described it — and a new mail order address has been set up to deal with Dragon orders.

A labour of love

Brian did not dwell on the reasons for Dragon Data's failure. As he was anxious to get on with discussing Touchmaster's future. However, he did admit that the Dragon did "not essentially fit to the market. If it had arrived at the right time then it would have had more acceptance."

Brian, who was brought in to Dragon Data on secondment from GEC as part of a major package from the then ruling company, has learnt a lot from the Touchmasters. He said the company experienced many problems operating as a young, relatively untried market and that it was inevitable that some companies would go — unfortunately Dragon was one of them.

Smaller companies enter the market or find a specialist niche — which is where Touchmaster comes in to the scheme of things.

The Dragon side of Touchmaster's ac-

tivities is secondary to its main purpose. Brian is keen to point out Touchmaster's main role. "The immediate priority is to make Touchmaster a successful company and to help Prudential bring new products into the market in the most effective manner possible."

Touchmaster hopes to do this by the launch of the Touchmaster pad at the PCW show in September. The pad — a touch-sensitive surface designed, developed and manufactured in Britain — is being manufactured for all the popular home micros — the Commodore, Sinclair, BBC and the Dragon. Interfaces are also on the way for the Amstrad and MSX.

Noting at CPW the pad "provides a way of communicating with the micro other than through the keys. Brian believes that the pad will change people's attitudes to software in particular" and lead to the spawning of a whole new development in software, using overlays rather than the whole keyboard.

The pad comes complete with graphics package, interface and power pack for each micro. Touchmaster will sell software ranging in price from £6.95 to £25 and will be responsible for its own marketing. The company has the world's largest and most advanced rights for the manufacture of the pad which is controlled by Information Entry Limited of Reading and is being produced in alignment by Touchmaster.



The product

The company is actively encouraging software companies to produce software for the pad. Touchmaster has about 80 games and utilities for the pad which Brian says is not a totally mass market product — rather users will want it to complete their range of peripherals. As users change their micro they will be able to take the pad upwards with them — still at a reduced is a new interface.

Touchmaster is looking at other products which might not be for micros at all says Brian, who points to the need to diversify into other product areas. Brian and most of the employees at Touchmaster are putting all their energies into the pad. An extra 20 to 30 employees may be needed in the run up to Christmas. At present Touchmaster has 35 employees and only a handful of these will be dealing with the Dragon side of the business.

Touchmaster's new mailing address is Dragon products at Touchmaster PO Box 40, Port Talbot SA12 1SD. The telephone number will remain the same as Dragon Data's old one, namely 0950-744770. A second local Office box number has been set up for trade enquiries concerning the Touchmaster pad and any new products the company may launch. Touchmaster Limited PO Box 3, Port Talbot SA12 1WH. The telephone number for this side of the business is 0950-744770. ■



Group picture
Touchmaster
Data's manufacturing
plant near sea camp

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References

INCENTIVE SOFTWARE LTD. 54 London Street, Reading RG1 1JH

ALTHOUGH DISK systems are now available for the Dragon, and most users have come to terms with the cassette spinning system, it is useful on occasions to be able to teach on and store a program up and running instantaneously. The only way to achieve this is to have your program held in ROM, as an alternative to Basic on power-up. Dragons have a suitable interface in the cartridge slot on the side, but only a limited number of manufacturers have taken advantage of this fact.

If you peep inside a Dragon cartridge, you will see it contains one or two large chips on sockets. There are also a version of ROMs called EPROMs (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memories) and they contain a machine code program. EPROMs can be programmed by transferring a program byte by byte into the chip at the same time as subjecting each location in turn to a voltage of about 20v. Once the program is inside, it is remembered even when the power is removed, and it can be loaded as if ROM. (Many early versions of computers, such as the BBC and the Cric had their spinning systems and Basic on EPROMs.)

Erasable

With a ROM or PROM, you are stuck with the code written on it — sometimes called firmware as it is a between soft — and hard-wire — but the EPROM can be erased by shining a strong beam of ultra-violet light on to the chip and it can then be re-programmed.

What the man-in-the-street thinks of as a chip is of course entirely the packaging and the real chip hides inside. EPROMs have little windows on their upper surfaces so that light can enter. Programmers usually stick a pipette orifice over the window to label the chip, and also to prevent ultra-violet light from entering. Although it is unlikely to happen, leaving an EPROM in bright sunlight for a long time could possibly erase your precious program.

Like all chips, EPROMs have identification numbers and these denote the memory size. For instance, one of the most common is the 2704 from Intel which has a memory size of 512K. That is 512K has not 512K bytes, so as in it is 512K bytes (the Dragon) you can store a file divided by 4 that is 8K programs. The latest EPROM available at present is the 27256 which can store 32K bytes in one chip, as their price is something in excess of £100, they are out of reach of most programmers.

In order to "load" or program your own EPROM, you need the necessary hardware including a socket for the chip, and you need the driving software to transfer your program and verify it.

Wendrich Micro Systems, manufacturers of the office editor/ assembler have incorporated the hardware and software into a very neat package that plugs into the cartridge socket on the Dragon. A little larger than the normal cartridge, they are still fairly compact, measuring 16 x 10 x 2 cm, enclosed in hard black ABS plastic. On the upper surface are two LEDs, 14 colour-coded dip-switches and a 25P socket. (This

Run with ROM

John Scriven reviews Bug Zapper, an aid to instant program running

stands for Zero Insertion Force, and connects the legs with tiny brass plates so you don't bend them.)

When switching on there is no need to connect a separate power lead as the unit is fed from the Dragon. Simply enter "555C" at the start-up menu appears on the screen. The choices available are:

- 0) Fill buffer area with a hex character
- 1) Move data within the buffer
- 2) Erase/Change the buffer
- 3) Formatted dump in hex and ASCII
- 4) Checksum of buffer
- 5) Copy EPROM into buffer
- 6) Verify EPROM against buffer
- 7) Program EPROM from buffer
- 8) EPROM type selection menu
- 9) SlowLoad (Caution)
- 10) Return to Basic

A normal sequence of operations might be as follows:

- A) Write program using assembler
- B) Debug and test program
- C) Save program on cassette
- D) Switch off and plug in EPROM programmer switch on
- E) Select menu option 8 and enter the type of chip you're using. The screen shows a picture of the chip, verifies its current positioning for that particular chip
- F) Select option 9, saved from cassette. This produces another menu that allows you to load the buffer with your program
- G) Select option 3, a formatted dump and take a print out of the buffer's contents. This not only shows the hex contents in rows of eight, but also the ASCII equivalent of the code. Any text or key words can be read from the screen.



Inside Wendrich's Bug Zapper

H) If everything is satisfactory, select option 7, insert a blank EPROM and select One of the LEDs lights up and the program is burned in.

One way to speed up entry is to use IPA (Incidentally this doesn't stand for Intel's Rate As in the case of INTEL's intelligent programming algorithm). Normally programming involves applying a 50 millisecond pulse to each location in the chip in programming a 1K device (1K means that pulses are applied for 1024 x 0.05 seconds, that is 51 seconds in all. An 8K device takes seven minutes to program and so on).

Before programming, all the locations in an EPROM are set to hex FF, as it is possible to shorten programming time by skipping over any cell that needs to end up as FF. Intel also noted that the majority of cells don't actually need 50 milliseconds — 8 msec would do adequately, so they developed their intelligent programming algorithm which dashes in on the fast.

Supplied with programming pulses every millisecond, the location is checked against the data to see if it has "taken" it. If it has, the pulse is repeated. If it has, the program moves on to the next location. This means a considerable saving in programming time: a 2704 takes about six minutes normally, and typically 1 min 10 secs using IPA.

Although there may appear to be a lot of menus and keypad entry, the system is nearly foolproof, and most things have sensible default values if you don't call up the chip selection menu, the program assumes you're using a 2704. The programmer also checks to see if the EPROM is totally blank before you start and will detect suspect chips.

Verification

When you've finished programming, you can verify the contents of the new chip against the contents of the buffer by choosing option 4 from the main menu. In this operation, the contents are compared byte by byte and locations that do not agree are shown on the screen. If all is well, a check-sum is made and the EPROM can be removed when the LED goes out.

The documentation is enclosed in a 36-page spiral-bound A4 folder and is easy to understand. It goes through each of the options in some detail and technical notes are also available. The package is neatly presented and simple to use. It compares favourably with those on the market for other machines, and indeed is a bit easier to use than another firm's BBC model I variety unit.

As well as being an excellent developer, that's not the Bug Zapper's entire range of usefulness: the contents of ROMs and EPROMs, even those designed for use with other computers, if you are using the Dragon for machine code development, then there would be a useful addition even though it appears a bit expensive at £79.95, if you don't yet have an assembler for your Dragon, then better value is provided by the version that includes the MACE assembler at £29.95. ■

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The best books for the Dragon 32



The Working Dragon 32

A library of practical software routines and programs. (100 illustrations)

- There clearly is a need for books of this kind which provide more than just games. — *Practical Computing* Sept 1982

It is a good one. — *Practical Computer Music* May 79 1982



The Dragon Trainer

Written as a combined manual and reference to course in the game of Dragon Trainer. It is aimed at the beginning and contains no previous experience of computing. (100 illustrations)

Dragon 32 Games Master

Games Master is set to give you the best games. (100 illustrations)

- If you can't write a halfway decent game after this, then you will be doing to your own lack of imagination. I would recommend the Dragon 32 as the best of the collection. — *Week News* — Sept 82



Advanced Sounds & Graphics for the Dragon Computer

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with some rewards and punishments made the way of Dragon Games **Tales Adventure**. It shouldn't have been. It consists of four games each one harder than the last and using a variety of strategies to beat obstacles, interest and get them to appreciate the qualities of numbers when combined together.

What do you find at the end of a rainbow? Well, a pot of gold of course if you can make your path bounce along the wall to hit the right target. The rest of its source depends upon you hitting on the better solution. Otherwise AGH has designed a mean little creature — halfway between Gullbert and Gullum who sneaks out and steals the gold away.

Number Games is another game in this program and looks to the factors of numbers below 60. You choose a number to score and the score knocks out that number and all its factors (that is if you choose 18 you score 18 but skip 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 and 1). You can, however, only choose numbers which have a factor left so the game also involves imagination and strategy as well as knowledge of factors. The whole package resembles the way factors are treated in school. It emphasizes the relationships between numbers rather than the perceptive responses of factor-chasing.

Shooting the rapids and underground adventure complete the task. All the games give variety to tedious work and justify the cost of contribution to learning the home-computer world.

Such software has three impressive looking boxes: **Just-a-Mot** (French vocabulary), **Revisage** and **Word-power** (vocabulary and spelling) which takes up back to square one. I've taken the French vocabulary package as an example — its philosophy seems to be that if you test long enough and hard enough learning takes place. Orders are vital else — you may be terrified at people initial food and drink shopping and essentials and the test may be games or a writing option.

The words you are tested on you cannot see beforehand, all of the action takes place on the test screen so no guesses can be made although the number of words in a word is required to be known at higher levels.

Strategic follows a similar pattern. Words are asked for (a definition is given)



The correct factor order



Brings you the pot of gold

but you have no chance to learn the words beforehand. Three mistakes at any word and you have to start the test over again. The package does not stand up to comparison with any European Talking Speller (Dragon Offer, Palmary) and really makes no worthwhile contribution to educational programming.

Vocabulary

Wordpower claims to increase your vocabulary and contains over 1,300 words including adjectives, synonyms, nouns/adjectives, collocations and idioms. The basic format is the same as Just-a-Mot with options for games or writing but without a chance to learn the information before a test nor to create your own test data.

Cambridge's **Geography** is another in the series. Chances you have known and loved. What is the capital of Burundi? A choice of five towns is given and if you are not Burundian, and therefore get it wrong the program will test you. It will also ask you about currency too if you choose. I can't see why you should want to know about Mexico's capital for example, or the money

they use and what the purpose of it is in relation to the rest of the world and how the ones of each of five continents is. However, the program does have one useful attribute — it will do a data search for you to find the capital and currency of any country you name. Type in France, for example, and quick as a flash it will produce Paris. It can even cope with spelling errors. Ludwig came out eventually with the capital of Luxembourg as Luxembourg is the country you mean? The thought strikes me that if we have the potential to come up with the capital Haiti in about two seconds for why are we stopping up our minds with such garbage when machines will do it for us. Surely we should leave them free to be creative and do those things machines can't.

A more serious attempt to help children learn is the series of programs by Blackwell Educational Software. **Chemistry** comes with a book of 58 pages of concise revision notes, two sets of problems with hand-written data, multiple choice questions with answers and a program giving advice on how to study and revise at home. The first program begins:

DO YOU THINK THIS WILL PASS YOUR CHEMISTRY EXAM FOR YOU SORRY IT WILL NOT WHAT IT WILL DO IS SHOW YOU WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP YOURSELF.

The important message is of course that there is no substitute for hard work.

Each of the sections loads a text test machine code file to make text and graphics and produce those learning chemical formulae the MATH4 and PAB00 which would look nonsense on the test screen.

Physics is much the same. A useful revision book is provided and sections on mechanics, electricity, temperature, light and sound are programmed. Twenty questions are used in each section and marks awarded for your efforts. When you have achieved 100 the authors consider your knowledge to be adequate in this area. Diagrams help where appropriate and there is a recap option at each stage.

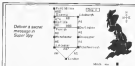
Physics involves a great deal of mathematical manipulations and any revision program must involve a high input of such problems. Two programs on the tape provide this and the unknown quantity is highlighted providing practice in manipulating equations. I believe the authors



Peeking up the points in Revisage



Snatch a Law equation in Revisage. (C) Blackwell



could have gone further still in that the selected questions could be reworded. For example, this problem on Shell's Line asks for a refractive index. If you are wrong you're told the answer but unfortunately not how to find it. The second attempt at the question is identical to the first — a wasted opportunity. If the angles of refraction were understood that a different question could result at each turn. This is especially easy in this particular question (Shell supports Set B) but I assume can be revised for them all.

Usual revision

On the whole these science packages would be useful as part of a revision program for major examinations. The weaknesses of the publishers is underlined in their caveat: 'This package is intended to complement the work by the pupil in school. It is not intended to be a complete 'O' level course. Provided that it is used in conjunction with the normal course work it should provide added stimulus and extra effort.'

Three other Scottish programs are not of quite the same quality. **Jungle Maths** and **Astronavis** set out with the aim of making practice at the rules of number more palatable. **Maths-4-10** levels suppose the topics mastered. The child has to find his way through the jungle by answering multiple choice questions. A few revision maps often has progress.

The sticking thing is what happens to you when you fail. Failing doesn't get being afterlives by various balls falling into a hole. Failing stores response time) are told by comparison to various disasters. These are beautifully drawn (in the 16 screen as four colours along with a font setting you — the signs on your head and you get surprised by a snake — all quite realistic.

Fractions and percentages are the key to **Automaths**. 'Calculus' Pulvis, is the game you play and you are rewarded a shot at **Newton** every two successful answers. There are options on difficulty and the test requires 80 per cent accuracy for you to have your shot. I don't know what the **Calculus** have come to distance each level mean: perhaps they failed to achieve 80 per cent accuracy on their point is equivalent test. For children at nine years and older this program might offend some accuracy precision but I can find that the way tests have been handled is misleading. I got the question 10-10-10 in three in a row on the second level of difficulty and 10-10-10-10 was repeated as not enough places of decimals had been written on the hardest level.

Star Reader starts off beautifully. A superb picture of a mountain scene begins the story, setting of a day in the mountains. Unfortunately the rest of the program doesn't quite match up to the beginning. The title is test screen only and therefore in capitals and quite confusing to the young children who I suppose to help.

'O' level Physics Measuring Instruments 1 Measuring Instruments 2 'O' level Geography Final tests and results ABC Test the time 1-10 each Music Tutor 10-10	Alfred Software 21 Union Street Ramsbottom M19 1LN Lancs
Geography 10-10	Clarendon 101, Marston 20 Leinster Road Luton LU1 1UD 2PL
Five Meter Shapely Tables Adventure 10-10 each	Cheshire Cat Educational Games Amstock 11 Woodroffe Road Dunstable Bedfordshire MK19 1JL
Super Day Computer Studies Maths 'O' level part 1 Maths 'O' level part 2 Maths (10-10) (mathematics) Basic Tutorial (mathematics)	John Software 4 Church Street Moor Green Bath BA1 1PL
Automaths Calculus 10-10 each	Calculus Educational A Division of Hartwood Bath BA1 1PL
Calculus Physics 10-10 each Jungle Maths Astronavis Star Reader 10-10 each	Calculus Educational A Division of Hartwood Bath BA1 1PL

Along thought has obviously gone into the design procedure sessions. The four programs which make up **Star Reader** are those often used in junior school projects. So except for the problems of lower age the program would be useful and in the serial program on say the BBC machine much in demand as a whole.

Alfred software produces a range of educational material for a wide variety of ages. Its 'O' level **Physics** measuring instruments form on length and area in required give some graphics demonstrate terms of the use of scales, vectors and micrometers, poppers and barometers. Questions as to estimating these quantities also form part of the program.

'O' level **Geography** uses rather map symbols to select dry. It consists of screen after screen of symbols for 1:50,000 cover and wind directions. First letter and words is rather poor too. Letters are drawn on the screen either on command or in order. Data what the value of interest in this is, but yet to discover. Its other intent is to help the user to discover the best of the book. **ABC** requires the user to load several items from questions to answer by filling the first letter of their names. The illustrations are well drawn and clear and the pace and style suitable for the children it is designed to teach.

Music Tutor is one of the only few packages to come from Alfred with reasonable documentation. The program allows music to be written, displayed in note form, played and saved on tape as data. There are also four full lines of demonstration tunes. It has one annoying feature in those of us susceptible to that speed-up game. My **Dragon** kept jumping out of the program whenever I sped up the **Music Tutor** option. If you save the same data records (the 4250 to read **FORN** = 1 **TOLN** = 15) and this will cure it.

Language options

Test the time is a quiz on getting the time right as shown on a clock face. The time you have to get is represented in the computer's memory as it designs to be very particular how you answer. The program has French and German options and also contains a mistake. A time of 0:30 is shown on the screen and the answer required is 0:30. If you intend to use it with children then **Insect Day** — 20 **PAST 9** after the day is over and you have to be sure. By the time we came to struggle with it not six months is quiet and so on the mistake had been cured so obviously it had been discovered by the publishers. Odd that they didn't go back and correct the English version.

To sum up although the educational software now available for the **Dragon** is all variety of quality (being produced under an educational flag of convenience) the role is turning out quality programs contributing to children's thinking and learning are not all about.

[illegible][illegible]

Table 1

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Machine
code special

Getting to grips with machine code

Keith and Steven Brain simplify the jargon as they take a look at the S-82 Toolkit from Ashby Computers and Mechanics's Ace Trace

AS HOME computer users become more experienced they often feel that it is time they let the relatively safe haven afforded by Basic and begin to delve deeper into the box to get to grips with machine code programming.

A major problem for the novice who is looking for a machine code programming aid is that everything is cloaked in jargon. There is not enough room here to explain all of this but to start with we will make a few simple definitions which should make our comments later rather clearer.

Op-codes

A Machine Code Program consists of a series of memory locations containing numbers which represent specific instructions of the CPU. These numbers, also known as op-codes (operation codes), are normally in decimal (base 10) numbers the computer uses the more efficient hexadecimal (base 16) notation.

In this the letters A to F represent the digits 10 to 15 so that any number up to 255 can be indicated by two digits which can be stored in a single byte. Unfortunately most people find it difficult to think in hexadecimal (perhaps because they run out of fingers).

A Machine Code Monitor allows you to directly examine and modify the contents of specific memory locations. A machine code program can be created in this way by entering the appropriate op-codes (but unless you have the memory of an

elephant it is very tedious for anything other than very short programs).

As most of us are happier with words than numbers, each op-code can also be represented by a mnemonic which gives a good indication of its action. For example, **MOV A, 10** represents the value in register A to be one.

An Assembler reads the contents of memory locations and translates the op-codes into hexacodes.

A Machine Code Editor allows you to construct a text file using mnemonics (rather like a Basic program) which you can usually modify during program development. This text file is known as the source code and it cannot be executed directly.



An Assembler translates the source code into object code which is the final machine code routine. This is very compact but difficult to edit.

A Trace program allows you to run your program in slow motion, with constantly on-line display of the contents of each CPU register at each step.

Although a number of machine code programming tools have been available for the Dragon for some time, two new products have recently entered the scene. The S-82 Microcomputer Systems Toolkit consists of a small cartridge and reference manual in what can only be described as an impressive (and very) box, whilst the Ace Trace Software's Dragon Ace Trace runs on a cassette, together with a separate manual in a video box.

The S-82 Toolkit is extremely well-

packed into a small cartridge. Unfortunately it is rather difficult to slide into the Dragon cartridge port as to line up the PCB with the internal edge connector you must leave about 1/16th of an inch or under the lower edge of the tool (glacéware handling and curving steel gave way to standing the Dragon on its side for insertion).

The manual is in two parts, extending to over one hundred pages (but we considered it did not live up to its promise of being "easy to understand"). Undoubtedly the knowledge is comprehensive but the style is a strange mixture of Usenet with Usenet, Advanced Computer Science, Successful Salesmanship and a political manifesto in which the third somehow seems to get lost in the mix.

Viruses

For example, on page 3 the author states: "I will now take a pause as you read the programming manual for the S-82 and a look at machine code programming. If you return still in one piece and sane, I will continue to introduce S-82 to your machine. However, regrettably, he makes no suggestions on what to read but instead continues to repeat the virtues of the product at great length (it is a welcome end) and probably never be so far from your

RSP	
ACE TRACE	
MOV	
EXL	
00001	ISCHEN INVERT
00002	ONE 17000
00003	LDR 0000
00004	LOOP LDR ,X
00005	EDR 040
00006	STR ,X+
00007	CHPA 0000
00008	BLD LOOP
00009	RTS

Example of Ace Trace source file

BC	
0000	BE 7 7000
0001	BE L LDX 0000
0003	AL L LDA 0001
0005	BB L EDRA 040
0007	67 L STA 0+
0009	BC L DMPX 0000
000C	25 L BCB
	4+FS 7000
000E	39 L RTS

Example of S-82 assembly

Sounding off

and show how to use machine code subroutines in Basic programs with an excerpt from their book *Advanced Sound and Graphics for the Dragon*

MACHINE CODE is the ultimate language of the microprocessor and even if you do not go to the extreme of writing programs entirely in machine code you can use subroutines written in it to improve your programs. We cannot even attempt to go into the details of 6502 code here, as that would take at least one whole book on its own (if you think that Basic is complicated then you will soon realize that machine code is rather like ancient Sumerian hieroglyphics by comparison).

We will therefore just explain how you can use machine code subroutines in your Basic programs, and give a few examples of sound and graphics routines. All data is given in hexadecimal base. That may make things look even more complicated than if you want to get into machine code you are going to have to get used to it sometimes, so you might as well start now!

CLEARing space

First you need to reserve room in memory to store the machine code you wish to write so that it cannot be overwritten by Basic programs or variables. This is done with the **CLEAR** command which is also used to reserve string space for these programs. To reserve space for machine code a second parameter must be added, which limits the highest address that Basic can use. Thus:

```
10 CLEAR 260
reserves 260 bytes for strings and
11 CLEAR 260 &H6000
reserves 260 bytes for strings and the area above address &H6000 for machine code routines.
```

If you are going to do much work with machine code then you should invest in an editor/ assembler (but in two resources that little program will allow you to enter code quite painlessly. There is no need to type **1011** to encode hexadecimal numbers, as this is added automatically. (Assembler listings are also included for the fortunate.)

```
1000 CLS PRINT "START ADDRESS: ";
1010 PUT STX ST=VAL) 4M + STX;
1020 PRINT "START ENTERING DATA
1030 PRINT HEX$(ST); INPUT AS
```

advanced sound & graphics for the Dragon computer

including machine code subroutines

Keith & Steven Davis



```
1030 POKE ST=VAL) 4M + AS;
1040 ST=ST+1;
1050 GOTO 1030
```

One major difficulty with machine code is that there are no error trapping routines built in, so if you make a mistake entering the data the whole thing can quite easily crash.

Sound is turned on by loading a byte to address &HFF23 and the tone counted downwards on the value loaded into &HFF24. The duration depends on a time delay which you build into the program. This simple routine just makes a single sound. When you have entered the numbers in the second column of listing 1 then address &H6000 with the loader program above you call it by EXECuting from the start address.

You should be able to define up to 10 separate machine code routines on the Dragon within the USR function but, due to a bug in the ROM, USR 0 is always called no matter what number you specify. Where no parameter need to be passed to

the routine this causes no problem, as you can simply EXECute the starting address of the routine to call it:

```
100 EXEC &H6000
```

If you RUN the Basic program it will make a single sound and then report back with OK. If you add 30 GOTO 20 it will repeat until you press BREAK.

Where you need to be able to pass parameters to a machine code routine the simplest thing is to EXECute it after POKE values into it. The tone value used is stored at address &H6000, and the duration as a two byte number at addresses &H6001 and &H6002, so try, as parametering by POKEing is difficult, values. For example:

```
20 POKE &H6000 &H40
21 POKE &H6001 &H40
```

If you are too lazy to think of values then try:

```
20 POKE &H6000 RAND(4095);
although as you wish you that it will sound a bit like morse code!

```

If you add:

```
20 POKE &H6001 RAND(4095);
it will sound a little more like the primitive tuning up.

```

Saving routines

The area of memory reserved for machine code is not saved by a normal Basic program. **SAVE** so you must **SAVE** ROM and take into account the address and length of the program. For example that first routine can be saved by:

```
CLS:ROM:SAVE &H6000 &H6004 &H14
```

Machine code allows you to make an interesting sounds as these can change type very rapidly. For example the listing in program 2 produces a 'plonker' (see source) if it is entered from &H6100.

The Basic routine below calls it whenever a key is pressed, but POKEs different values into it according to whether A or B is pressed to produce two different sounds.

```
20 IF PEK$(327) = 255 THEN 30 ELSE
1=PEK$(125)
30 IF I=55 THEN POKE &H6001 FF:EL
50 IF I=65 THEN POKE &H6001 3F:EL
50 30
40 EXEC &H6100
```

```
DISASSEMBLE FROM=&H6000 TO=&H6100
&H0000 B5 3F LDR #3F
&H0002 B7 FF 23 STR #FF23
&H0005 B8 00 FF LDX #&H00FF
&H0008 C6 5F LDR #3F
&H000A F7 FF 20 STX #FF20
&H000C 5C INCB
&H000E 26 FA BNE &H000A
&H0010 30 1F LERX -1,X
&H0012 26 FA BNE &H000A
&H0014 39 RTS
```

Listing 1

```
DISASSEMBLE FROM=&H6100 TO=&H6110
&H6100 B5 3F LDR #3F
&H6102 B7 FF 23 STR #FF23
&H6105 B7 00 TFP #A,B
&H6107 F7 FF 20 STB #FF20
&H610A 5C INCB
&H610C 26 FA BNE &H6107
&H610E 4C INCR
&H6110 2A 01 BPL &H6111
&H6112 4F CLRA
&H6114 2A 02 BRA -&H6105
```

Listing 2

```

DISASSEMBLE FROM=6200 TO=6220
6200 86 3F      LDA    R3F
6202 67 FF 23   STA    $FF23
6205 10 0E 62 50 LDY    $6250
6209 0E 00 00   LDW    $0000
620C 06 00      LDB    ,Y+
620E C1 00      CMPE    $00
6210 27 13      BEQ    $220
6212 1F 90      TFR    B,R
6214 F7 FF 20   STB    $FF20
6217 5C         INCB
6219 26 F6      AND    $26F6
621A 1F 09      TFR    R,B
621C 30 1F      LSRW    +1,Y
621E 26 F4      AND    $26F4
6220 20 E7      BPR    $220
6222 39         RTS

```

Listing 3

50 GOTO 30

It is often useful to be able to set up a sequence of tones to be played, and these are best organized in a sound table in memory. The program in listing 3 starts from \$16000 and reads four bytes from listing 4 which starts at \$16200 and constructs a sound table in sequence until it finds a zero.

Use the loader program to enter some values into this table and listen to the effect (you will have all the update up to \$161FF available). To speed things up, POKC a smaller value into \$16200.

start and end address values in \$16000, \$16002 and \$16004, \$16006 respectively. For example if you POKC \$16004 with \$1605 then only the top half of the screen will invert.

The routine in listing 5 shows you to fill certain bytes of the 16-bit graphics screen with any number. The main use is in drawing parts of the screen or setting up a particular pattern. The routine places the values in \$16001 and \$16002 into consecutive bytes of the screen. This is particularly fast as it is done in 8-bit increments by loading the 8 to A, and in

```

SOUND TABLE DISASSEMBLE FROM=6500 TO=650F
6500 0E 04 00   LDW    $0400
6502 06 04      LDB    ,X
6504 09 40      EORW    $40
6506 A7 00      STA    ,Y+
6508 0C 06 00   CMPE    $0600
650A 25 F5      BCS    $507
650C 39         RTS

```

Listing 4 (continued) and 5 (partial)

```

DISASSEMBLE FROM=6600 TO=660F
6600 06 00      LDB    $00
6602 0C 05      LDB    $05
6604 0E 06 00   LDW    $0600
6606 27 04      BEQ    $004
6608 1F 7F      TFR    $1F7F
660A 0C 07      BCS    $607
660C 39         RTS

```

Listing 4

Normal and inverted characters on the test screen can easily be inter-converted with the table in program 5 which makes an EOR (exclusive OR) of each character on the test screen with \$140. The Basic program below will invert the screen every time a key is pressed thus alternating between the two forms.

```

10 G=INKEY$ IF G=" " THEN G=0
20 G=NOT G
30 GOTO 10

```

No doubt you will be impressed by the speed of the system which is actually instantaneous. If you want to invert only part of the screen change the two byte

registers as a single 16-bit D register.

The start address of the area to be filled is at \$16000-\$16002 and the address at \$16004-\$16006

```

30 POCDE 3 : SCREEN 1:0
30 EXECUTE $6000
40 GOTO 40

```

If zero is POKC into \$16001 and \$16002 the top three quarters of the screen will be cleared as for PCLS and if \$1FF is POKC with zero and \$16003 with \$1FF the result is red and green stripes. Experiment with other values or remembering that each screen point is controlled by a pair of bits in POCDE 3. ■

A special age

Michael Turner explains how the intricacies of machine code.

FOR A long time I have found Basic very slow. Although it may be quick and easy to work in Basic for the production of an original program, the running speed of a Basic program leaves much to be desired.

Even my change from the Sinclair ZX81 to the Dragon did little to satisfy my ambition in this respect, despite the 400 per cent improvement in operating speed. Experiments using both machines in test mode showed that the Sinclair took 10 seconds to run a program compared with four seconds for the same program on the Dragon.

Whenever action is required within the graphics of a games program it is this slow operating speed that produces the greatest disadvantage to the DIY programmer in one of my efforts called

Space Shot, the action of the laser gun with especially draining. It seemed an age before the shot from base reached the top of the screen. Not at all the high-speed space action adventure I intended.

Fading hopes

The only answer was to master the intricacies of programming in machine code. Despite a year of searching through libraries and bookshops I failed to identify and locate a suitable publication. All the books available seemed to me too difficult for the beginner. It must be remembered that machine code, like Basic, is machine specific. Books on machine code for the Dragon were not readily available and those for the Tandy, a machine which shares some features with the Dragon, are of limited value because of the differences in machine code application.

Just as I was beginning to lose I acquired a copy of the "Green Screen" Assembly.

**EDITOR
ASSEMBLER
EDITOR
ASSEMBLER**

— a programmable previously marketed by Dragon Data and now available by mail order from its author Mike Noy of Grosvenor Software, 22 Grosvenor Road, Stanford East Sussex. Even with the powerful new tool the struggle was not over. It took some time to understand what I was doing with the

Speedy space- e solution

...how the Dream Editor/Assembler helped him to master
code, allowing the conversion of his Space shot program from Basic

package and to apply his new knowledge to the programs I wished to write.

The main difficulty is that the booklet supporting the Dream cassette assumes previous knowledge and experience of writing machine code. Consequently as a total beginner some weeks of trial and error (or should I say trial and failure) were necessary before I developed any understanding of the operating procedures.

Back to front

Although I began in the logical way — working through the book from the beginning and entering into my machine all the examples, it was difficult to get to grips with what the documentation was saying. I decided to reverse the process. This time I started the book at the back by entering in the decompilation programs and then consulting the dictionary of terms to discover what each line meant. This proved to be more rewarding. Through a process of substitution of values, I began to understand what the package was intended to achieve.

My last hesitant, independent venture (aided with the booklet firmly clutched in my left hand) showed the text display on character space in the left. I prepared the program in object code as shown below.

```
LDX #00401
LDY #00400
LDA X=
STA Y=
CMPY #0000
BEQ #0000
JMP #0000
RTS
```

The Dream Editor/Assembler converts these values into machine code form (that is strings of numbers) burned within the memory of the computer. My curiosity made the attempt to see the conversion which had been achieved by the assembler displayed on the screen. A status routine allowed me to do this.

I remember well the feeling of quiet satisfaction as the screen began to blurt numbers and I knew that I had achieved my top objective. Having noted the values from the screen, I copied the memory of the machine and posted in the program listed starting at memory location 20000.

```
102 4 1 16 142 43 168
128 167 160 140 0
0 30 4 126 76 40
07
```

With the program re-entered, I used EXO-20000 to get it to run. I could have used GEF 1000 + 20001. A ← 00000) to achieve the same result.)

To understand the program when using the Editor/Assembler it may be sufficient in its object code form. For instance, in the first two terms in the program quoted above, LDX represents the load instruction while X and Y are the index registers along the same job as the last part of a poke statement. The next term LDA X ← loads into the Accumulator A the value in memory location X and then in creates X by one.



The All Dream cartridge contains the Dream Editor/Assembler and a Monitor/Disassembler for use with Dream.

STA Y ← stores the value in Accumulator A at memory location Y and then increments Y by one. In the next line X is compared with #0000 which is the last position in the screen memory. The next two statements BEQ and JMP are equivalent of GOTO statements in Basic while RTS means return to entry (usually back to Basic).

As the objective was to improve the running speed, I tried to compare the program with its equivalent in Basic. So long I had reacted to the beginning of the machine code program by pressing the button on my Joy watch the program had already completed its task. Clearly I had this speed I needed and an accurate

reading of that speed was irrelevant.

Some other problems remained. I still had to find a method of getting access to high resolution graphics, the use of the sound generator and how to input from the joystick during a program. Many of these difficulties were overcome after I obtained a copy of the valuable pamphlet *Reference for Assembler Code Owners* published by Oregon Data, but which does not accompany the Dream package. (I related copies of the pamphlet are available free from Touchdown Marketing International (cable) Morgan Port Talbot SA13 2PC. Enclose a large SAE.)

Armed with this essential information I was able to convert my Space Shot program from Basic to machine code as listed below and to achieve the speed that proved that my space fiction program is dated.

```
102 76 204 126 76 30 187
104 126 76 126 126 126 10
182 0 30 126 0 30 7 120
83 30 30 126 30 111 142
5 204 102 126 126 142 30
200 16 142 0 204 166 126
167 160 142 0 0 30 26 120
76 76 142 0 204 166 126
126 126 30 30 16 142 0
200 166 126 167 162 140 5
203 30 3 126 76 30 142
0 0 180 126 140 0 200 30
171 246 200 0 160 204 30
7 140 126 30 0 126 70 111
140 5 204 166 126 126 142
30 3 126 76 16 142
0 0 104 0 76 200 126 126
30 30 5 126 76 162 166
102 126 142 30 126 126 126
167 126 200 162 16 142
0 14 30 3 126 76 104 164
142 126 30 167 126 55 140
5 204 40 3 126 76 114 126
76 30 142 5 204 166 142
5 203 166 126 166 162 142
0 0 30 5 126 76 200 126
76 30 142 4 0 124 142
147 126 142 0 0 0 30 3 126
76 200 126 5 0 166 166 142
166 126 167 126 201 126 126
126 166 142 142 5 160
167 126 142 0 160 30 3 126
76 1 142 5 160 166 0 104
142 56 140 5 160 40 5 167
102 126 76 14 126 76 44 142
4 30 166 126 126 101 30
16 140 4 64 30 3 126 76
30 1 142 4 32 124 101 167
102 126 76 44 142 4 64
10 142 4 63 160 162 167 126
140 4 32 30 126 76 66 126
5 160 16 142 5 124 166 126
167 160 140 5 162 34 3 126
76 160 5 166 126 5 160
126 76 44 142 4 64 160
126 140 4 66 30 17 126 142
30 246 126 13 166 250 34
134 13 160 250 34 126 76
204 142 5 162 134 142 167
126 140 5 204 30 3 126 76
166 126 30 44 67
```

Space shot program as listed

Tim Lovis

CRICKET

Dragon 55 — 55-65

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*Computer* (2242), *Computer* (2243), *Computer* (2244), *Computer* (2245), *Computer* (2246), *Computer* (2247), *Computer* (2248), *Computer* (2249), *Computer* (2250), *Computer* (2251), *Computer* (2252), *Computer* (2253), *Computer* (2254), *Computer* (2255), *Computer* (2256), *Computer* (2257), *Computer* (2258), *Computer* (2259), *Computer* (2260), *Computer* (2261), *Computer* (2262), *Computer* (2263), *Computer* (2264), *Computer* (2265), *Computer* (2266), *Computer* (2267), *Computer* (2268), *Computer* (2269), *Computer* (2270), *Computer* (2271), *Computer* (2272), *Computer* (2273), *Computer* (2274), *Computer* (2275), *Computer* (2276), *Computer* (2277), *Computer* (2278), *Computer* (2279), *Computer* (2280), *Computer* (2281), *Computer* (2282), *Computer* (2283), *Computer* (2284), *Computer* (2285), *Computer* (2286), *Computer* (2287), *Computer* (2288), *Computer* (2289), *Computer* (2290), *Computer* (2291), *Computer* (2292), *Computer* (2293), *Computer* 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SPECIAL FUNCTIONS on the Dragon 32 can be created using the program which creates sets of the BIOS subroutines called by the Dragon whenever a ROM routine is used. Every time the keyboard is pressed the ROM calls location 360 and loading the BIOS instruction returns. Registering this with a JMP to our routine the Dragon can be redirected to perform special functions.

The program is a collection of utility programs. I have provided two sets of functions, the first set being tape recorder commands and the second set being graphics commands. Pressing the <down arrow> twice will call up the menu for the tape recorder functions, whilst pressing the <right arrow> twice will do the same for the graphics. Press any key to escape from this menu. The functions are numbered between 0-9, but any of the keys on the keyboard could have been used.

To call a function press the relevant arrow and then the number desired. Now instead of having to repeatedly type <LOAD> <ENTER> when trying to load from the middle of a program on tape, just press the down arrow and then the "2" (two key presses instead of six). The graphics commands are similar abbreviations of usual Dragon commands, with the exception of the invert screen routine which has been added.

When a key is pressed the program checks to see if either of the toggles have been set for the function sets. If not the program checks if either of the arrow keys have been pressed, and if so sets the

Functional features

Peter Whittaker collects a collection of utility programs to create special functions on the Dragon 32

relevant toggle and returns to Basic if the appropriate toggle has been set, the program checks to see if the key pressed corresponds to a function number or the menu, and if so clears the toggle and executes the function. If not the toggle is cleared and then the program returns to Basic.

The functions themselves are largely a matter of calling Basic ROM routines from machine code. In brief there are eight steps to follow:

- Create a tokenised Basic line
- Save the pointer at \$FA0 (LDR ->A0 PSHS X)
- Point X register to start of Basic line (LDR @BASIC PCP)
- Store X at \$A6 (\$TX <->A6)
- Load the A register with the first character (\$LA X)
- Clear the condition code register

(ANDCC #0FE)

- EXEC ROM routine (JSR \$7000)
- Restore pointer (PULS <->A0)

It is not possible to extend this program from Basic, but a similar with an assembler it can be easily modified. To increase the number of functions in each set, alter the key comparisons in blocks 50 and 100, and add your own extra functions. To increase the number of function sets (that is keys calling the functions) create extra toggles in block 20 and extend the key check in block 30.

It entered from the Basic loader the program can be saved as machine code by <SAVE> <FUNCTIONS> <ENTER> <SHIFTS> <ANDCC>. Remember to <CLEAR> \$00 \$100 before reentering. To enable the function keys enter <EXEC> <ENTER> and to disable <POKE> \$00 \$1 <0>.

DOWN ARROW FUNCTIONS

- 1) SKIP over a Program.
- 2) LOAD a Program.
- 3) SAVE a Program.
- 4) LIST a Program.
- 5) MOTORON & MUGDOON.
- 6) MOTOROFF & RUSHDOFF.

RIGHT ARROW FUNCTIONS

- 0) FOLS the graphics screen.
- 1) Invert the graphics screen.
- 2) SAVES the graphics screen.
- 3) Display graphics screen.
- 4) CLORON graphics screen etc.

Assembler listings for function keys

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PCP0  BTORG          200  PCP  BTORG          200
PCP1  BTORG          200  PCP1 BTORG          200
PCP2  BTORG          200  PCP2 BTORG          200
PCP3  BTORG          200  PCP3 BTORG          200
PCP4  BTORG          200  PCP4 BTORG          200
PCP5  BTORG          200  PCP5 BTORG          200
PCP6  BTORG          200  PCP6 BTORG          200
PCP7  BTORG          200  PCP7 BTORG          200
PCP8  BTORG          200  PCP8 BTORG          200
PCP9  BTORG          200  PCP9 BTORG          200
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- 32 1M, 2M, 4M

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The display shows the plan view of one of the rooms with Eddie in the middle. Movement is achieved using the cursor keys, though you can define your own key controls as desired by the program.

Pressing the "M" key displays a map of the maze provided Eddie has managed to locate it.

Objects are automatically picked up as Eddie enters a room and his wallpaper is displayed at the left of the screen and automatically restored when appropriate. To escape, Eddie must search for the five keys that will allow him to head for the exit and freedom.

To add incentive to the game, there is a Back Track Challenge competition. On

finishing the final stage of the game, watch the screen and complete the entry form enclosed with the game. Five winners will then be invited to attend a play-off at Incentive's offices. The winner will win a complete Cumans Disk Drive system worth nearly £200.

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Snake

Alan Brown, Harrogate, Kent

In THIS game a snake wriggles around the screen and you must shoot from the centre of the screen at the end segments of the tail.

There are two levels of play and only one

decide on how many shots you would like. Level one is easier and the more shots you take the better chance you have of winning.

A score may only be made if the snake is completely destroyed. Control keys control the snake's direction and with very careful use you can keep one shell on the screen for the whole game.

Program Notes

10-140

Draw title screen

180-220
230-260
260-400
420-500
510-560
560-660

700-750
760-800
810-850
860-900
910-1000

Data for title screen
Initialize variables
Draw game screen
Shoot?
Hit routine
Check that shell is still on screen
You are dead!
Play again
You have won
Run out of shells
Instructions

```

10 REM      Snake
20 REM      DAVID HARMAN
30 REM      VERSION 9
40 DIM X(100),Y(100)
50 GOSUB 960
60 GOSUB 1040
70 REM      TITLE SCREEN
80 FOR X=0 TO 63
90 FOR Y=0 TO 31 STEP 2
100 SET(X,Y,0)
110 NEXT Y,NEXT X
120 RESUME
130 FOR X=1 TO 70
140 READ PD
150 FOR EPD=1024,207
160 NEXT
170 REM      DATA FOR SHW-E. --
180 DATA 97,98,99,100,101,103,107,1
19,111,112,115,118,120,121,122,123
124
190 DATA 129,135,136,139,141,145,14
2,147,152
200 DATA 161,163,163,164,165,167,16
7,171,173,174,176,176,177,179,180,
184,185,186
210 DATA 197,199,202,203,205,209,21
1,213,216
230 DATA 225,226,227,228,229,231,23
5,237,241,243,246,248,249,250,251,
253,254
270 REM      INITIALISE --
280 X1=30:Y1=16:X2=30:Y2=16:C=1:L=
0:R=11
290 REM -- SET COURSE OF SHW-E --
300 FOR P=2 TO 60:X(C)=Y(C)+4:C=C
+1:NEXT
310 FOR P=4 TO 20:X(C)=60:Y(C)=4:C

```

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```

540 B=4+1:IF A<1.75 THEN B=11
550 GOSUB 470
560 GOTO 370
570 REPEAT 102,120
580 X2=X2+8:Y2=Y2+8
590 REM-- SHOT OFF SCREEN? --
600 IF X2>2 OR Y2>60 THEN A=0:GOTO
610
620 IF Y2<4 OR Y2>57 THEN B=0:GOTO
630
640 SET 102,Y2,51
650 RETURN
660 X2=X2+Y2-Y1:Y2=Y2+1
670 PRINT#10,LE=5;" SHOTS ";
680 IF B=0 LEVEL 1" THEN 710
690 SET 100,Y2,11
700 REPEAT 10 OR (10-L1),Y1R=10-L1:
710 RETURN
720 REM -- GOOD/BAD LUCK? --
730 CLS
740 PRINT#104,"you"CHR$(128)"are"CHR$(
128)"dead";
750 SOUND#10,15
760 GOTO 700
770 GOSUB 540
780 PRINT#106,"play"CHR$(128)"again"
CHR$(128)CHR$(128)"y"CHR$(124)"n"
CHR$(125);
790 IN=IN+1:IF IN=0" THEN 770
800 IF IN=1" THEN 60
810 IF IN=0" THEN 770
820 CLS AND 70-1
830 PRINT#100,"E N D   O F   P R O G
R A M";
840 PRINT#111
850 END
860 CLS
870 PRINT#66,"YOU SCORED" (140-LE)-
50+10*POINT8"
880 IF (140-LE) > 50:GOON THEN HI=(
140-LE)-51+10
890 PRINT#100,"HIGH SCORE"HI"POINT
8"
900 PRINT#174,"      HELL DONE"
910 RETURN
920 CLS
930 PRINT#66,"YOU DIDN'T GET IT AL
L"
940 IF L=1 THEN GET="SECRET" ELSE
GET="SEGMENTS"
950 PRINT#130,"YOU HIT"LE8
960 PRINT#194,"      HARD LUCK"
970 GOTO 760
980 REM--
990 REM-- OUTLINE --
100 CLS
1010 PRINT#100,"THE PROGRAM YOU ARE
ABOUT TO
      PLAY IS CALLED SNAKE IN
      A SNAKE WRIGGLES AROUND THE E
      DGE
      OF THE LAMP READY TO POUNCE ON
      "
1020 PRINT#YOU IF YOU DON'T SHOOT H
IN
      STARTING AT THE END OF HIS T
      AIL
      AND MOVING UP TO HIS HEAD."
1030 PRINT#66,"PRESS A KEY...";
1040 READ L:CL 41194
1050 RETURN
1060 REM-- SKILL FACTOR --
1070 CLS
1080 PRINT#102," USE THE ARROW KEYS
TO DETERMINE
      THE DIRECTION OF YOUR S
      UN."
1090 PRINT#," ENTER HERE WHICH SNA
KE TO LEAVE.
      YOU REQUIRE, THE LEVEL #1
      5A
      IS THE NUMBER OF SHOTS YOU WA
VE
      AT EACH TARGET....";
1100 REM-- WHICH LEVEL? --
1110 INPUT LE
1120 IF LE=5 OR LE=1 THEN 1040
1130 REM -- SHOTS=LEVEL X 10 --
1140 BE=LE*10
1150 LE=INT(BE)
1160 S=0
1170 REM--
1180 REM--
1190 CLS
1200 PRINT#PRINT" WHICH SKILL LEVE
L #1=2A
      1A EASY (STRAIGHT SHUN
      2)
      3A DIFFICULT (DIAGONAL SHU
      10)"
1210 PRINT#PRINT
1220 INPUT" ENTER LEVEL...";LA
1230 IF OF 1 AND 5A<72 THEN 1150
1240 RETURN

```

Mastermind

From Alan Fyle in Edinburgh

1040 IS A computer version of the popular secret game where one player selects a number of coloured pegs and puts them in a sequence hidden from the other player. The second player has to deduce the

colours by attempting to duplicate the hidden pegs.

Clues are given in the form of black and white pegs. Black signifying that a colour is correct and at the right position, while signifying that a colour is correct but in the wrong place. In this version, the Dragon chooses the colours at random. Up to ten people can play and pages are selected by pressing the enter/return of the colour — red blue green yellow orange or magenta.

If one of the ten users plays two pages placed and the player wishes to change his mind, the back arrow will delete the previous entry. A maximum of eight guesses is kept. If there is more than one player, running score totals are kept and displayed after each game.

Program notes

Levels 10 to 50 set up the game, taking the number and names of the players and

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4d required branching to the instructions displayed at lines 1080 to 1100. Note that the black cross at line 1080 is printed by typing shift + Line 80 to 100 increments the player number and set up the board ready for play. Line 200 chooses four colours at random.

Line 100 (PLAY/NO) PERTIN to line 50 means that the same random numbers are not chosen in each hot game after the computer is switched on. In fact the Dragon knows the colours only by number (1-5). The CHR\$ code for each page is

found in the array (60) row; in turn, the data in are 5000.

The initial letters are decoded by the INSTR function which searches through the string "CS: 0895YCM". One player, not being accustomed to the Dragon's colours, preferring to not imagine "pink" this can be changed by entering line 60 to read CS = "895YCP" and by altering the instructions at lines 1070 1080 and 1100.

Lines 280 to 270 allow the player to key in the initial letters and the Dragon to play

the colours on the board. Data instructions for choosing the colours for a lucky black gem are added at line 280 while page is last 60 to 500.

Line 280 checks whether all nine pages are black in which case the program returns to the fresh routine at line 100. Line 280 continues the line number if it is less than 15 (the eighth turn). If it is not the program continues at line 400 to 430 where the player's quarters are considered and the solution displayed. Lines 440 to 450 give commands and scores.

```

1 *****
2 ** DRAGON MASTERMIND **
3 ** WRITTEN BY ALAN FYFE **
4 *****
5
9 **INTRODUCTION**
10 CLS:PRINT#234,CHR$(170);:PLAY"
D":PRINT#234,CHR$(170);:PLAY"E":PR
INT#242,CHR$(143);:PLAY"C":PRINT#2
44,CHR$(159);:PLAY"02C":PRINT#437,
"MASTERMIND";:PLAY"L.L."
20 FOR Z=1TO800:NEXT Z:CLS:PRINT#75,
"MASTERMIND":PRINT#162,"SO YOU RED
DINE INSTRUCTIONS?"
30 I$=INKEY$:IF I$="" THEN 30 ELSE
IF I$="N" THEN 40 ELSE IF I$="Y"
THEN 1000 ELSE SOUND120,1:GOTO 30
40 PRINT:PRINT:INPUT" HOW MANY PL
AYERS?NP:IF NP=1 THEN PRINT:FOR I
=1TO NP:PRINT" NAME OF PLAYER";I:
INPUT N$(I):NEXT
50 P=PEEK(1275):FOR Z=1TO P:P=RD(10
):NEXT:Q$="RDBOY":L$=STRING$(18,1
280+STRING$(14,143):FOR I=1TO6:REA
D B$(I):NEXT
60 CLS:FOR L=1TO15:PRINT#L;:NEXT:P
RINT STRING$(18,1280);:IF D=1 THEN
200
70 PN=PN+1:IF PN=NP THEN PN=1
80 IF NP=1 THEN PRINT#0," PLAYER"
:PN;"- ";N$(PN)
90 PRINT#134,"guesses";:PRINT#151,
"CLUES";:PRINT#165,"displayed";:PR
INT#181,"displayed";:PRINT#197,"th
is";:CHR$(128);:PRINT#213,"T
HIS SIDE";
100 SOUND 2000:G=1:GOTO 60
300 G=0:Y=1:FOR I=1TO4:A(I)=RD(14)
:NEXT:**RANDOM COLOURS**
240
247 **PLAYER CHOOSES COLOURS**
250 FOR I=1TO4
260 B$(I)=(INKEY$:IF B$(I)="" THEN
260 ELSE IF ASC(B$(I))=0 AND I=1 T
HEN I=1-I:PRINT#4Y=32+I*3),CHR$(12
8+B$(I)-32):GOTO 100:IF I=4:GOTO 260
270 G(I)=INSTR(1,C,B$(I)):PRINT#(
Y*32+I*3),CHR$(240+G(I)):NEXT
279
279 **DRAGON CHOOSES COLOURS**
280 P=0:FOR I=1TO4:IF A(I)=G(I) TH
EN K(I)=1:PRINT#(Y*32+20+P),CHR$(
280);P=P+3:INSTR ELSE A(I)=0:NL(I)
290 IF (K(I)+K(2)+K(3)+K(4))=4 THE
N PLAY"03,02C0004L4C":FOR Z=1TO800
:NEXT:GOTO440
300 FOR I=1TO4:L(I)=K(I):NEXT
310 FOR I=1TO4:IF K(I)=1 THEN 350
320 FOR J=1TO4:IF L(J)=1 THEN 340
330 IF G(I)=A(J) THEN L(J)=1:PRINT
#(Y*32+20+P),CHR$(207);:P=P+3:GOTO
350 ELSE L(J)=0
340 NEXT J
350 NEXT I
360 IF Y=15 THEN 400 ELSE Y=Y+2:GOTO
350
370
377 **700 MANY SUESSES**
400 FOR I=2TO8:P=3:TO100 STEPS:P
RINT(1026+32+I*3),CHR$(1026+64+I*3
2+3);:FORK=1043+32+I*3);:P=PEEK(1043
+64+I*32+3);:INSTR J,I
410 FOR I=32TO192 STEP64:PRINT#256
+I,L(I):NEXT:PRINT#480,STRING$(18,1
280);STRING$(12,143);
420 FOR I=1TO4:PRINT#(384+I*3),CHR
$(16+A(I));:NEXT:PRINT#402,"= THE
ANSWER";
430 SOUND2000
440 Y=16:CLS:PRINT#100,"FOUR SHOW
";N$(PN):PRINT#144,"YOU SCORED 2C
RD":IF NP=1 THEN 480
450 GOTO 470
458
457 **PLAYER GUESSES RIGHT**
460 CLS:PRINT#100,"WELL DONE ";N$(
PN):PRINT#164,"YOU SCORED";16-Y:I
F NP=1 THEN 480
470 SC=(PN)=SC(PN)+16-Y:PRINT#228,"
THE SCORES ARE NOW";:FOR I=1TO NP:
PRINT#(260+I*32),N$(I);:PRINT#(26
0+I*32),SC(I):NEXT
480 IF NP=PN THEN PRINT:PRINT"
ANOTHER ROUND?" ELSE PRINT:PRINT"
PRESS CENTER TO CONTINUE"
490 IF INKEY$="C" THEN Y=1:GOTO 470 EL
SE IF I$="Y" THEN 60 ELSE IF I$="N
" THEN END ELSE IF ASC(I$)=13 THEN
60 ELSE SOUND120,1:GOTO490
470

```


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MIKE GERRARDS ADVENTURE TRAIL

A full-year month for dragon adventures who can at last feel they're coming in out of the cold with the arrival not only of the first of the Mysterious Adventures series: **The Golden Bats**, but also the first Scott Adams adventure seen on our machine: **The Incredible Hulk**. The incredible graphics are missing on this one though. The Golden Bats comes in versions for the Dragon 32 and 64 on this price tape, the 64 having graphics that can be toggled on and off by pressing the Enter key.

This is a useful feature that applies to versions of the game for other machines: the graphics are adequate rather than stunning and personally I prefer to play the text-only versions since the text is much better at the pictures. Not that the text in these helps compare up need scenes in the way that some adventures do. They tend to be rather at last the opening description being "I'm in a domed spooky forest. I can see Old Gosh — Rolling Leaves, fifty, north south."

One thing we can be thankful for is that whatever has decided to redesign the character set into small text and with lower case which is very pleasing on the eye. I wish all Dragon adventures were done like this though unfortunately it does nothing to improve the machine's keyboard response and you still have your typical commands like EXAM, BATTLE, and GET OBJECT. If you're not fiddle with the typing style.

What the price doesn't go in for is the settings so you can be sure that every object you find will have a purpose eventually. Something you do need to remember is the difference between the two commands EXAMINE and SEARCH. EXAMINE suggests a visual check of an object whereas a more thorough Search might reveal something hidden beneath its shape.

The initial locations are all in and around the forest, one path being blocked by a stone wall. Finding the means to deal with that one (I'm of flesh) though I haven't yet figured out what use a dead wolf is in the current situation.

The adventure is in three stages, and once you've explored the outdoors there is a castle to go to enter, which leads to the Dragon room (where a knowledge of Greek mythology might come in useful) and then finally on to the search for the Golden Baton itself which is via one of the earlier forest locations.

The Baton is to restore peace on your

lands, if you are interpreted, and the actual two staffs look and misgiving of looking something in atmosphere. There are the silly 'Sudden Death' routines you don't want to be given for winning a contest (and it's about to happen, so you can retreat and think again, and I'd certainly recommend this to the Dragon editors as advice).

It's an expensive mistake to recommend one to your first choice to sample a Scott Adams title should be treated either. It is a pity for own series of adventures, not yet available, though considering the problems I'm having with The Incredible Hulk maybe that's just as well at the moment. The opening scene doesn't leave much room for manoeuvre, being a very plain "I'm Bruce Banner, last thing and last to a chair. What shall I do?" Obviously you need to turn into the Hulk and it read through the accompanying leaflet suggests how this might be achieved. In fact at the end you're given coded clues if you're really stuck in the first scene, though I can assure you there's at least one other command that will help you escape.



The adventure is filled with signs to read and one of these informs you that the purpose of the adventure is simply to collect as many gems as you can and return them to a certain place, which you discover by reading yet another sign. To get there (though you have to get out of the dome where you have been imprisoned. As Bruce Banner you will be killed by rocks as the tunnel leading out, so again you have to find a means of turning into the Hulk).

An example of the Scott Adams style of

humour comes in a field where if you wait around too long, when some cats emerge from behind a gate and kill you and kill you even so the Hulk. Next time round you try to be smart and enter GLOOM, which only to find that they attack your nose instead.

Scott Adams' technique is not to go in for the type of adventure with two hundred locations and more, but to restrict the numbers of places and concentrate instead on the consequences of the tasks to be solved. Once out of the dome you are in a field, and whatever way you move from here takes you to a fuzzy area. North of there is a small underground room which contains both a gem and an egg. If you try to take the gem from the egg explodes and kills you as the master technique of turning into the Hulk doesn't work here, so you're going Bruce Banner instead.

If you hang around trying to figure out tactics the room eventually fills with poison gas and you die. (After in the Scott Adams tradition you are transported to Lenda and can start again with the game state as it was. If you want to start from scratch you must QUIT and naturally there's a SAVE facility.)

Another sample of the problems you'll get is in the very first location where, once you've escaped, various items are scattered to you including a large stone ring in the floor. It won't budge if you try to move it, and again you're Bruce Banner with no apparent means of turning back into the Hulk in this location once you've escaped from the chair. You can jump the Hulk in the next location but return to the room and you're Bruce Banner again. It's all to do with these strange powers you understand.

The adventure has a vocabulary of some 150 words and like The Golden Baton the commands are in the usual two word form, both advents using acrostic abbreviations of the first four letters of a word.

All adventures are well packaged and down-to-earth, and I'm sure you'll get your money's worth from both. **The Golden Baton** is available from Channel 5 at 51 Parkgate, Preston, Lancs. PR1 6BH (prior 0595) and **The Incredible Hulk** from Adventure International, 119 John Bright Street, Birmingham B2 6JY. ■

Scott Adams' Mike Gerrard will be writing adventures for the Dragon. If you have an adventure you want to send or you need advice or have come to offer write to Mike Gerrard's Adventure Trail at Dragon User.

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THE 1992-1993 season was a record-breaking one for the industry, with a total of 1.2 million units sold, up from 1.1 million in 1991. The success was attributed to a combination of factors, including a strong marketing campaign, a focus on quality, and a commitment to customer service. The industry's growth was also driven by the introduction of new products and services, which helped to attract new customers and retain existing ones. Overall, the 1992-1993 season was a testament to the industry's resilience and ability to adapt to changing market conditions.

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NOTE: All answers must be written on separate paper.

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E-mail: Richard.Hofmann@uic.edu

The following table shows the results of the regression analysis for the dependent variable "Number of publications" (N = 100). The independent variables are "Gender" (Male/Female) and "Age" (Young/Middle/Older). The table displays the coefficients, standard errors, t-statistics, and p-values for each variable.

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Here's my classified ad:

Please write your copy in capital letters
(see Blue Screen, Continues 2)

\$1.00	\$0.40
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\$2.25	\$0.70
\$2.50	\$0.75
\$2.75	\$0.80
\$3.00	\$0.85
\$3.25	\$0.90
\$3.50	\$0.95

Figure 1

[illegible]

1000

1000

1000

Reason not to get involved: You're already busy.



THE MAY competition brought in some very interesting entries for the 'Prime-search' problem. Readers were invited to complete a forty-six grid of digits which was in fact an as many different primes as possible. The primes could be read up or down, from the left or right or diagonally — with the only restriction being that the four digits 1 9 0 and 4 already in place on the grid were to be left in position.

This last point was a condition that some entrants failed to realise and of course these entries had to be disqualified. Other entries also had to be eliminated for inaccurately taking the number of primes present — either by duplicating the same primes or including non primes on the list. In two cases, this was particularly unfortunate as both entries would have been potential winners, having achieved higher targets than the eventual победитель.

Prime search

This 'prime-search' competition was situated in that there was no absolutely correct answer — just the highest possible score attainable to decide the winner.

In compiling the problem, the highest score that I managed was 87, and so I returned that a score of one hundred or over would be pretty good going. The highest score received had achieved an amazing 150 primes, with the runner-up close on his heels with 148, although as has been stated, both of these entries had to be dismissed. This was a difficult decision, but it was decided that in favour of entrants who had submitted accurate answers, these entries should be disqualified. To quote from W S Gilbert — 'value is triumphant only in theoretical performances'.

Nevertheless a score of 150 certainly deserves recording so if anyone would like to try to improve on the record, here is the grid in question:

3	9	7	1	9	8
7	1	8	3	8	9
9	1	9	4	2	1
3	9	1	8	7	3
4	9	3	7	4	9
9	3	3	7	3	1

Don't forget that the terms of the question require that the four digits 1 9 0 and 4 be placed in the centre four positions of the top left to bottom-right diagonal.

The theory of constructing a prime search grid is particularly involved. The natural tendency of avoiding all even digits

and five is a valid restriction, as only a small portion of the primes are made up solely from these digits. So the judicious introduction of a few even digits would seem to be a better move than their complete avoidance, but exactly which and how many makes for a difficult, if not impossible analysis.

This month's competition also involves completing a grid although this time, the object is to produce as many different squares as possible.

	2			3	
	7			8	

The numbers can read in any direction — up, down, left to right, right to left, or diagonally, but only in a straight line. For example, the sequence 89222 would contain the squares 9 222 and 25 in one direction, and the square 2229 in reverse. Remember that the four digits already on the grid must be left in place. Note that in testing your squares, any square can only be counted once, even though it may appear in the grid several times.

To enter the competition, copy your completed grid on to a sheet of paper and then list clearly all the squares that you have found. You must show how you arrived at the answer with the use of a Basic program. At the top of the page state the total number that you are claiming. The winner will be the entrant with the highest score.



STOCKS

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Price

SALAMANDER is offering readers a chance to win its entire range of software for the Dragon.

Prizes this include the commercial *Stardes* (Commercial Edition), the best-selling *Das Diamond Trilogy*, *Red Meander*, *Waffle Graphics* and a data retrieval system.

Rules

TO WIN the Salamander 'Search' competition, the answer to the competition and how to enter it with the use of a Basic program developed on your Dragon. Please do not send in a cassette containing the program, as a Salamander computer the following sentence in 10 words or less: I want Salamander's range of software for my Dragon because...

Your entry must arrive at Dragon User by the last working day of October. The winner and the solution to the quest will be published in our January issue. Entries will not be acknowledged and no correspondence will be entered into. You may only enter the competition once.

July winner

This month's July's competition was judged by a HP45 thermal transfer printer from Oxford is Mrs Katherine Mayer of South in Cardiff.

Katherine correctly gave the 10 states that were on the professor's list.

St. George now has two choices!

Red or green will slay the Dragon

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- ▲ Graphite wiper linear potentiometers.
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Why not choose either joystick with the delta 3d, return it to us within seven days for a full refund.



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